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HERTFORDSHIRE'S

Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

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South Herts CAMRA's Santas enjoy a festive pint by the inglenook in our Christmas pub, the **White Horse** in Hertford, and wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

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- Mega Brewers Killing Traditional Beers
- Smoking Ban – For or Against?
- Watford's 10th Beer Festival Report

THE BITTER END

Cynical Mega Brewers Kill Traditional Beers

Eight out of every ten pints brewed in the UK are produced by six companies, four of which are multi-nationals and new proposals will mean the closure of three of their six remaining real ale breweries.

So who are they?-

Anheuser-Busch UK

The company brews Budweiser at the old Watney's Stag Brewery in Mortlake. Produces no real ale.

Carlsberg

Brews innocuous so-called Danish lager at Northampton, on the site of the old Phipps Brewery. Also owns Tetley Brewery, Leeds producing seven real ales: Tetley's Mild, Bitter, Cask Bitter and Imperial plus Burton Ale and Ansell's Mild and Bitter.

Coors

Owens the White Shield Brewery, formally the Museum Brewery at Burton-on-Trent. Other than

White Shield it produces limited runs of discontinued Bass beers from the past: St Modwen, Worthington E, P2 Imperial Stout and No.1 Barley Wine. Coors' interest in this venture has caused speculation on its continued existence.

All Coors other real ales are brewed under licence: M&B Mild at Highgate in Walsall, Stones Bitter at Everards, Hancocks HB and M&B Brew XI at Brains in Cardiff, with only Worthington Bitter and

Worthington 1744 produced in Burton.

Guinness

Still brewing stout at Park Royal, North West London but is due to close the brewery and move production to Dublin in the New Year (as reported in Newsletter 205).

Interbrew UK – InBev

Has Bass brewed under licence by Coors in Burton-on-Trent at Marston's, but the supply contract ends in February 2005, so the future of Britain's most famous beer is in doubt.



InBev, as the Belgian multi-national is now known since its merger with AmBev of Brazil, also owns Boddington's of Manchester. Boddington's got a reprieve from closure in 2002 but InBev is now

intending to close the brewery in February 2005. Part of their international rationalisation will also mean the closure of Labatts of British Columbia and Bass Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Scottish Courage

Own three breweries; Fountain in Edinburgh which produces McEwans 80/- which they intend



to close in 2005 and move production to Caledonian brewery under licence. Tyne Brewery, which brews five Theakston's beers

and Newcastle Brown Ale, again planned to close and move production to move to the Old Federation Brewery in Gateshead. John Smiths produces; Bitter, Best Bitter and Magnet as well as Webster's Bitter and Green Label Best. They also brew Courage Directors Bitter.

Boddington's Closure Threat

'Save the Cream' campaigners demonstrate over InBev's 'World Tour of Destruction'



Boddington's 'Save the Cream' campaigners demonstrated in Brussels

over Inbev's 'World Tour of Destruction' and their intention to close the Manchester Brewery in 2005.

CAMRA members and Boddington's workers, along with Manchester pressure groups angry over plans to close the 226-year-old Boddington's

Brewery in Manchester, joined together in a major demonstration in Brussels.

Mike Benner, Chief Executive of CAMRA said, "The obsessive promotion of Stella, while planning to close Boddington's Brewery is insulting to British beer drinkers and the Workers at Boddington's, who will lose their jobs if the closure goes ahead. The decision to close Boddington's Brewery and brew the beer elsewhere is unacceptable and flawed, the brewery is profitable and British drinkers will not accept Boddington's brewed away from the original brewery. In the UK drinkers care about heritage and authenticity and demand choice. InBev is ignoring the views of its customers. We don't all want to drink Stella Artois - we want genuine Boddington's beers brewed where they belong - at the Boddington's Brewery." You can join the Boddington's "Save the Cream" campaign online [petition go to http://boddingtons.camraactionnetwork.org.uk](http://boddingtons.camraactionnetwork.org.uk)

Coors & Bass

In the earlier part of this article I highlighted Coors of Colorado, USA's lack of interest in British brewing and beers. Literally all their brands are produced under licence other than the small amount produced by the Museum Brewery Burton on Trent. Bass, brewed under licence at Marston's for InBev has its licence due for renewal in February 2005, and demand has dropped by 17%. By comparison Bass represents 70% of Coors' real ale production. Their other Burton beers - Worthington Bitter and 1744 only account for 40,000 barrels a year, so the end of Bass will herald the discontinuation of 1744, first brewed in 2002, and the Worthington Bitter contracted out.

Don't let the Multinationals kill their Real Ales

The faceless multinationals are not interested in brewing but profit. Boddington's is perfectly viable and Bass still holds a good share of the real ale market. Join the Boddington's Campaign, and if you are not already a member of CAMRA, join as well. Consumer power means consumer choice.

Steve Bury

Old Cross Tavern



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THE BITTER END

Smoking Ban in Public Places – For or Against?

In November the Government published their White Paper "Choosing Health" which aimed at improving the health of people in England. Among the proposals is ban on smoking in all pubs serving prepared food, by 2008. Only pubs serving no food (Excluding crisps and snacks) would be exempt, however smoking would be banned in the bar area of the pub. In private membership clubs, members would be free to choose whether to allow or ban smoking. The debate on whether to ban smoking in pubs is now very much on the agenda and many pubs are worried how such a ban will affect their trade.

Whilst on a short break in Suffolk in September I found myself in the **Ship Inn** in Dunwich, which had beer mats saying "Don't let smoking in public houses become a crime". The mats also had an address and an internet web site on them but I could not find the site when I undertook a search (so I won't publish it). What I did find was a mass of articles and other information, and as it seems that a blanket ban in all buildings used by the public could take place in the near future, we feel it is worthwhile to open the debate.

Council-Imposed Bans

Britain's 12 million smokers have a powerful new enemy, capable of curbing their vice more effectively than the health lobby has ever managed to - step forward the local bureaucrat. City councils across Britain are now drawing up radical plans to outlaw smoking in public places, with some considering draconian blanket bans in **all** public houses and clubs. A survey of Britain's 30 biggest city councils reveals that, anticipating government plans to give local authorities powers to impose smoking bans in public areas, nearly all are to restrict smoking in the coming months. Around a third plan to hold public debates on outlawing smoking in clubs, pubs and restaurants, with some suggesting a blanket ban within five years. Anti-smoking groups say this would have a

huge effect in reducing smoking. "The single best way to encourage more people to give up smoking will be restrictions on smoking in workplaces, including pubs and restaurants," said Deborah Arnott, director of **ASH** (Action on Smoking and Health). Roger Coey, head of Environmental Health at Cambridge City Council, said, "We are looking at a five-year programme to make Cambridge smoke-free. We would like to do it with persuasion and have got quite far this way, but it would be useful to have the legislative power. We know that in some areas persuasion won't work, and so we would like to have the legal framework to push this through".

Sheffield, Coventry, Birmingham, Manchester, Derby, Northampton and Oxford are all conducting consultations and contemplating bans, whilst Leeds and Bristol are awaiting the Government's plans. The London Health Commission, which advises Mayor Ken Livingstone, has already polled Londoners for their views. Nearly two out of three who responded favoured a complete ban in restaurants. Merseyside Council has just announced that they will be the first in England to introduce a blanket ban.

Councils are acutely worried that doing nothing would open them up to lawsuits under the Health and Safety Act and may introduce bans simply to protect themselves from litigation.

The American Experience

It is almost impossible to smoke in any public building in New York following the ban introduced, in September 2003 - and smokers lead an unhappy, outdoor life whatever the weather. With a few near meaningless exceptions, smoking has been banned in bars, clubs and restaurants. The move was brought in to protect staff from the supposed dangers of second-hand smoke.

But bar owners have been making dire predictions about the future of those workers' jobs at many of the city's night-spots and restaurants. Bar takings are significantly down, they claim, reporting an average drop in business of about 20 percent. There have been social consequences too. Much of downtown Manhattan looks like a giant ashtray

on a Saturday morning.

More seriously, one death – of a nightclub bouncer – has been attributed to the smoking ban. Dana Blake, a bouncer at a lower east-side Manhattan club, died of a stab wound after allegedly asking someone to stop smoking. The case has been used by those in favour of self-regulation as evidence of the consequences of a ban.

In California bars and restaurants, customer numbers have not fallen as predicted since they banned smoking.

Beer giant Anheuser-Busch recently stated that beer sales were down seven per cent across New York but that restaurant sales were flat. It seems clear that the real losers there are the bars and taverns.

There are now attempts being made to have New York's ban overturned and a more flexible set of rules put in place allowing smoking in certain areas of bars.

The European Approach

In Britain pub owners are holding out for a self-regulated solution, although a government-imposed ban is a strong possibility.

Smoking bans have also come into effect closer to home. The Scottish Executive of the Scottish Parliament is seeking a total public place ban on smoking by spring of 2006. In Ireland – where a fag and a pint are almost a cultural institution – a smoking ban in pubs has been in operation since January 1, 2004. Newspapers have reported some protests and smoking continuing unopposed in some pubs, and on-trade beer sales are down 10 per cent.

In Norway a ban has been in place since 1st June 2004 and trade in rural pubs has been hit. Sweden will introduce a similar ban on 1st June 2005. The Netherlands did have legislation in place to ban smoking in bars but this has been withdrawn for the present. It is likely though that new legislation will be introduced after further consideration. Italy plans to institute a low to no smoking regime in its pubs and bars from next year; although whether the Italians, who have been known to flout other legislation, will pay any attention, remains to be seen.

Continued Page 6

THE WHITE HORSE

33, CASTLE STREET, HERTFORD
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One of Hertford's oldest pubs, offering a fine selection of up to 10 cask conditioned ales from around the country

Good pub food served 12.00 - 2.00pm daily.
Traditional Sunday Roast served 1.00 - 3.00pm

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CAMRA Good Beer Guide 1997 - 2005 Cask Marque Certification



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WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.**

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QUALITY FOOD

**Greene King IPA, Abbot Ale
Morlands Bitter, Guest Beer**

Local Dissent Brewing

Closer to home, drinkers in a Nuneaton pub have banded together to sign a petition against proposed smoking bans in public places. Andy Spencer the landlord at the **Royal Oak**, in Arbury Road, Stockingford, is standing shoulder to shoulder with them. He said "If the Warwickshire County Council ban comes in I'll sell up. It would kill our trade. 90 per cent of people in here have already said they wouldn't come in".

Trevor Johnson, 60, from Grove Place, Stockingford, says he has been drinking in the pub for 40 years and enjoying a roll-up with his pint is all part of the experience. He said: "Our petition has signatures from both smokers and non-smokers who feel that everyone has the right of choice; to choose whether or not to drink in a smoking pub or to use a non-smoking establishment. Pubs are our heritage and the onus should be on the proprietor - what happened to democracy? If this law comes in I intend to ignore it. I'll go to jail but I won't pay a fine." (*Careful, Trevor - they might ban it there too!* - Ed)

The strong sentiments being expressed by some customers in Warwickshire will probably be ignored. Of course we would not have a problem if we had kept more multi-bar pubs, rather than allowing their owners to knock them through to form open-plan barns. Although I gave up smoking in 1984 (you never forget the date) I still feel there should be proper facilities for both smokers and non-smokers in public houses.

Any comments or interesting stories will be well received. Steve Bury

Hertfordshire's Pints Of View is produced by the South Hertfordshire and Watford & District Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA Ltd or its branches. Any articles or letters for publication should be sent to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA.

Subscriptions for Pints of View

£4 for 18 issues. Send to: John Lightfoot, 66 Dryfield Road, Edgware, Middx., HA8 9JT. Cheques payable to: CAMRA South Herts.

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Home Made Meals and Soups
Sandwiches, Toasties
& Toasted Baguettes

Large Garden, Only 5min from Town Centre

We have recently moved from the GBG 2004 & 5 listed Fullood Arms in Winchester and look forward to meeting the good people of Hertford.

10th Watford Beer Festival: From Strength to Strength

The Watford Beer Festival has been increasing in popularity and success for several years now and the 10th anniversary event was no exception. Last year's festival opened all day Friday for the first time and because of its success, this year the decision was made to open the doors at 5pm on Thursday 4th November. The decision certainly seems to have paid off; 153 customers turned up on the first night to sample 56 different beers, 6 ciders and perry.

Despite the festival opening on Thursday, visitor numbers for Friday and Saturday were almost identical to last year's. Apparently, the longer we're open the more people come; and, in all, nearly 1000 drinkers turned up over the three days, many of them arriving early and staying late.

The percentage increase in customers was exceeded by the increase in visitors joining CAMRA at the festival. This year 47 new members joined the Campaign, more than double last year's total. This surpassed our expectations by some way and hopefully indicates that the resurgence of interest in Real Ale is continuing apace.

In another first for the festival the main function room was designated non-smoking this year, with smokers able to light up in the old members' bar. We polled our customers on this and found that 86.5% agreed with this decision and only 6.5% disagreed, so it's very likely that the non-smoking area will be retained in future.

4360 pints of beer, cider or perry were drunk over the three days. Despite this, out of the 56 we started with, we still had 20 beers

available at last orders on Saturday night. Over the last couple of years we've found ourselves running very low in beer near the end of the event, but with 38% of our individual brews left at the end, there was plenty of variety right up until the finish this year. Even so, we decided to drop the entrance fee to £1 on Saturday night, so hopefully most people were satisfied.



We asked visitors to nominate their Beer of the Festival. Incredibly, all 56 of the beers, 4 of the ciders and the perry all received at least one nomination. We'd like to think that this reflects the overall quality and condition of the beer. The most popular beer was Heather Ebulum (6.5%), a dark porter-style beer with a 'fruits of the forest' flavour that comes from being brewed with elderberries. In second place was Spectrum Old Stoatwobbler (6.0%) a rich and powerful brew from Norfolk. An old favourite and previous winner, Pictish Brewer's

Gold (3.8%), occupied the third place.

We had a number of strong beers on the stillage this year and these went down very well. Ebulum and Old Stoatwobbler are both strong beers and E & S 1872 Porter (6.5%) and Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby (6%) also occupied top ten positions. As well as being strong, these are all dark beers, which were very popular. Perhaps the dominance of the dark stuff at our festival indicates that the public has a greater taste for these beers than the big breweries would have us believe. The branch would like to thank everyone who came to drink and/or work at the festival. I'd like to think that we got it just right this year. To quote one of the feedback forms we were given, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".

Andrew Vaughan

Hertfordshire's Nautical Pub Names

Recently I came across a copy of the Whitbread history of pub signs, nautical edition, printed in the 1970's and it got me thinking. Although Hertfordshire is completely landlocked it still has thirteen pubs with nautical names: seven Anchors, a Jolly Sailor, a Sea Monster and a Sea Siren, two Nelsons and an Admiral.

So why the names and what do they mean?

The Anchor is the most common name and signifies a safe resting place. There is one in Wadesmill, Bourne End and Tring. St Albans' Anchor is Blue and the Cheshunt actually has an enormous ship's anchor lying outside. The **Crown & Anchor** in Barnet (closed for a short spell recently and now up for let) refers to the emblem on naval officers' buttons which had a "foul anchor", one with a length of rope around it as a symbol. After Nelson's time a crown was placed above the anchor to signify the "Royal Navy" as against the "Merchant Navy". The name Hope & Anchor also appears regularly on pubs and I must admit I do not know its origin. The pub of this name in Hertfordshire is in Welham Green.

Nelson was of course Britain's greatest naval hero, dying at the battle of Trafalgar off the Spanish coast in 1805; the three hundredth anniversary will no doubt be celebrated in earnest next year. Many pubs were named after him, the **Lord Nelson** in Barnet and the **Nelson** in Wheathampstead. What is not commonly known is that the original McMullen pub which is now a private residence next to the Mops & Brooms in Well End was called the Nelson and the pub sign is still displayed in the public bar of the new pub.

1759 is known as "the year of victories" when the Navy went without defeat in any battle

and unlike other periods was actually receiving willing recruits in large numbers rather than having to press men into the service. Of course the lure of large booty payments from goods captured from our enemies' ships was also an incentive. The **Jolly Sailor**, St Albans or **Jolly Sailors**, Buntingford could signify that the pub was run by a happy retired seafarer, but the sign was also used to show that you could enlist on the premises.

So much for the up side of naval life. Wetherspoons, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, named their pub in Potters Bar the **Admiral Byng** after the ancestor of the Byng family who still live on and own Wrotham Park, an estate that lies between Potters Bar and Barnet.

Admiral John Byng's claim to fame is that in 1756 he failed to relieve Fort St Philip in Minorca which had been invaded by France, was court martialled and shot the year after. The French writer Voltaire commented it was done "to encourage the others".



The unfortunate fate of Admiral Byng

And so to Sea Monsters, the Leviathan being the largest and most evil. According to the Old Testament and Hebrew myth it would rise from the sea and destroy passing ships. The pub

known locally as the "Levi" is in St Albans Road Watford.

Lastly the Mermaid, a voluptuous female of the mythical race, half woman, half fish. The Chaldean sea god Ea, the Phoenecian god Dagon and the Greeks had Tritons mermen and Sirens women. Seeing mermaids may lead to shipwrecks as they sing to unwary sailors drawing them onto the rocks. A modern and more boring explanation is that the apparitions were seen due to a vitamin deficiency caused by bad diet and stopped when limes and lemons were issued to stop scurvy. The only Mermaid in Hertfordshire is in Hatfield Road, St Albans.

Steve Bury

The Blue Anchor



145 Fishpool Street, St. Albans, 01727 855038

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Two regular and three guest ales available

mermaidstalbens@btinternet.com

Double win for Silver Cup

The **Silver Cup** in Harpenden, closed for a long period whilst refurbishments took place, reopened on 24th November – see back cover advertisement for more details.

They also recorded another good result before the closure when their two teams that entered this year's rugby Pub Sevens at HRFC (Hertford Rugby Football Club) excelled themselves. The Silver Cup *Fugitives* were only just beaten in the semi-finals by the London Samurais, who are basically the national under-21s sevens team. But it was all credit to them to have played so well.

The Silver Cup *Cunning Plan* team also excelled themselves in other ways. Although they didn't win a match with the egg-shaped ball, they certainly won hands down with the pint-shaped glass at the party night afterwards.

APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

I/we wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME/S.....

ADDRESS.....



POST CODE.....

SIGNATURE.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER/S.....

I/we enclose a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd for membership for one year (tick applicable box).

Single £16 Under 26/OAP Single £9

Joint £19.. Under 26/OAP Joint £12

Send to:

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA LTD., 230 HATFIELD ROAD, ST.ALBANS HERTS AL1 4LW

SHE POV#208

2004 CAMRA Beer Prices Survey Results

UK Region	2004	2003	% Change	Cheapest	Priciest
Real Ale Prices per Pint					
UK Whole:	£2.06	£1.98	+ 4%	£1.09	£3.00
East Anglia	£2.15	£2.08	+ 3%	£1.45	£2.55
East Midlands	£1.99	£1.90	+ 5%	£1.23	£2.40
London	£2.24	£2.13	+ 5%	£1.35	£3.00
North	£1.94	£1.90	+ 2%	£1.09	£2.30
North West	£1.87	£1.75	+ 7%	£1.10	£2.36
Scotland	£2.12	£2.05	+ 3%	£1.29	£2.50
South East	£2.22	£2.15	+ 3%	£1.35	£2.80
South West	£2.11	£2.02	+ 4%	£1.50	£2.50
Wales	£1.96	£1.86	+ 5%	£1.15	£2.60
West Midlands	£1.97	£1.87	+ 5%	£1.15	£2.40
Yorkshire	£1.88	£1.83	+ 3%	£1.09	£2.30
Lager Prices per Pint					
UK Whole:	£2.25	£2.17	+ 4%	£1.09	£3.00
East Anglia	£2.41	£2.29	+ 5%	£1.90	£2.85
East Midlands	£2.18	£2.09	+ 4%	£1.35	£2.70
London	£2.41	£2.34	+ 3%	£1.49	£3.00
North	£2.16	£2.12	+ 2%	£1.09	£2.80
North West	£2.03	£1.98	+ 3%	£1.46	£2.48
Scotland	£2.15	£2.03	+ 6%	£1.79	£2.45
South East	£2.42	£2.35	+ 3%	£1.59	£2.90
South West	£2.30	£2.18	+ 6%	£1.68	£2.70
Wales	£2.11	£2.06	+ 2%	£1.59	£2.55
West Midlands	£2.17	£2.11	+ 3%	£1.49	£2.70
Yorkshire	£2.12	£2.12	+ 0%	£1.25	£2.50
Other Drinks Price per Pint					
Real Cider	£2.27	£2.05	+ 11%		
Keg Cider	£2.30	£2.21	+ 4%		
Nitro Keg Beer	£2.03	£1.96	+ 4%		
Keg Stout	£2.41	£2.32	+ 4%		

So what can we see from the figures above?

- The largest price increases were in the North West 7% but their beer is still the cheapest in the 11 areas, at an average price of £1.87 per pint.
- Hertfordshire in the South East not surprisingly has the second most expensive beer at £2.22 only beaten by London at £2.24 per pint.
- Lager drinkers saw the largest price increases in Scotland followed closely by the South West and East Anglia. Advice: leave the stuff alone.
- Real Cider had a staggering increase in price of over 10%. There was a bad apple crop this year but can anyone explain why Keg Cider only went up 4%? Figures show that Real Cider still retails at slightly less than the fizzy dead stuff.

CAMRA HQ would like to thank all those who took part and made the survey possible.

Hertfordshire 2005 Good Beer Guide Pubs by Public Transport

As you will know from our last newsletter, the Good Beer Guide 2005 is already on sale in good time for Christmas (a perfect present). John Crowhurst of South Herts CAMRA branch has excelled himself this year with the second much improved guide to Good Beer Guide Pubs by Public Transport. Supported by ARRIVA the bus company the booklet is priced 25 pence when sold, limited free editions are available in selected pubs. The guide includes map references, information on train and bus services plus information on fares. A small number of Good Beer Guide Pubs are remote enough to need a healthy walk to get to. We all know that the best exercise is the walk to the pub, and the hostelries in question are well worth making the effort to visit.

Ware Beer Festival

Due to problems beyond the control of the committee, the Ware Beer Festival has not taken place in 2004. However, IT WILL HAPPEN IN 2005 at the usual venue Ware Arts Centre, Kibes Lane. It is hoped to stage the event during the Easter Holiday period: the date and details will shortly be decided. So check out the next newsletter-a must for Hertfordshire Beer Lovers' diaries.

Calling All CAMRA Members

Want to nominate any pub for the 2006 Good Beer Guide? Contact John Bishop on 01582-768478, quoting your CAMRA number. Closing date is 31 December 2004, selection on 1 March 2005 at CAMRA HQ. Survey trips to nominated pubs commence from January 2005 and run throughout February. See our Branch Diary at the end of this newsletter for details, and to reserve a minibus place.

Michael Theakston - Obituary to a Committed Real Ale Brewer

Michael Theakston who has made one of the most outstanding commitments to real ale as brewer died in September aged 79. He was trained as an engineer and joined the brewery in 1968; he was one of the first brewers to wholeheartedly support the then Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale when it started in 1972.

Theakston's of Masham, Yorkshire had never installed a keggling line and became an almost overnight market leader with their "Old Peculier" strong ale; that was a reference to the autonomy granted to Masham by the see of York in the Middle Ages. The brewing process which had remained unchanged since 1827 epitomised everything the real ale movement stood for.

In 1974 demand for Theakston's beers had become so great that they bought the then mothballed state owned Carlisle Brewery. The company had expanded too fast, and with other brewers finding a place in the market plus much publicised disputes within the Theakston family, they were taken over by Matthew Brown of Blackburn and then Scottish and Newcastle in 1987.

Triumphantly, Theakston's was returned to the family in 2003 when the business was bought back by Michael's four sons. Sadly, with the exception of some Old Peculier, all Theakston's beers are now brewed in the Tyne Brewery at Newcastle - which is due to close in 2005, when production will move to the old Federation Brewery in Gateshead.

Michael was born in Putney in 1925 but was a true Yorkshireman, committed to Masham, being a Church Warden and Chairman of the local British Legion; he instructed that a barrel of Theakston's Best Bitter be made available at his local the White Bear "for his dispatch to be properly celebrated".

Pubcos Wordsearch

A	B	E	E	R	T	I	V	A	E	H	O	M	T	V
R	O	M	P	C	W	I	N	N	S	P	I	R	E	D
E	S	U	O	H	E	L	B	O	N	S	F	S	Y	I
T	P	N	P	U	N	C	H	E	N	U	S	E	A	M
S	I	I	E	H	J	L	G	S	I	N	R	I	R	A
A	R	Q	G	D	N	A	O	L	R	A	E	V	G	R
M	I	U	D	C	T	A	E	R	E	M	T	A	C	Y
B	T	E	I	I	B	R	Y	P	M	C	R	D	M	P
U	C	Q	R	W	U	R	S	R	M	M	A	T	O	X
P	C	E	D	A	U	K	E	H	O	L	B	J	R	T
A	H	S	L	B	A	R	R	A	C	U	D	A	R	Y
T	O	Y	E	R	M	A	C	L	A	Y	A	T	E	S
C	R	V	B	Z	P	D	T	Y	N	E	M	I	L	L
U	A	A	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y	O	W	J	L	I
S	K	D	L	A	R	E	G	Z	T	I	F	A	S	T

Below are the thirty Pub Companies (Pubco) names in the grid.

1. AVEBURY
2. BARRACUDA
3. BARTER
4. BRAKSPEAR
5. CATMERE
6. CCT
7. COMMER INNS
8. J.T.DAVIES
9. DAVY'S
10. ELDRIDGE POPE
11. FITZGERALD
12. GRAY
13. HEAVITREE
14. HERITAGE
15. INNSPIRED
16. LAUREL
17. MACLAY
18. MCMANUS
19. MERCURY
20. MORRELLS
21. NOBLE HOUSE
22. PUBMASTER
23. PUNCH
24. PYRAMID
25. RYAN
26. SFI
27. SPIRIT
28. TYNEMILL
29. UNIQUE
30. YATES.

Beer Names Anagram Wordsearch 207

An apology:

Clue 4) Had one too many "n"s - Anchor ban answer was BAROCHAN

Clue 5) Should have read: 'I damn bad lock in Wigan' - the answer being BLACK DIAMOND.

Clue 23) Answer RAIDERS reads RAIDERS in the grid.

We would like to thank John Gee of West Sussex for pointing out two of these errors.

Beer Names Anagram Wordsearch Solution

1)ALBACORE 2) AMNESIA 3) BARE ARTS 4) BAROCHAN 5) BLACK DIAMOND 6) BRANOC 7) CAT NAP 8) DRAYMANS 9) EASY RIDER 10) FESTIVAL 11) FLAT CAP 12) GOTHIC 13) HOLY JOE 14) ICEBERG 15) JOUSTER 16) KING BILLY 17) MEDRA 18) MURDOCH 19) NUPTUALE 20) OAK OLD 21) OWN 22) PAINTERS 23) RAIDERS 24) RAMPART 25) ST AGNES 26) TEXAS 27) TROPHY 28) ULD ALE 29) WET NOSE 30) WHITE MONK 31) YANKEE.

All the above were taken from the beer list in the 2004 Good Beer Guide and could be cross collated to the brewers and the places of origin.

Completed entries should be sent to Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA. Please don't forget to include your name and address details.

The first correct entry opened on the 1st Feb 2005 will receive a copy of the new "2005 Good Beer Guide".

St Albans Beer Festival Complimentary Programme Prize Wordsearch

Winner of the £50 worth of real beer was Jeff Harber of St. Albans. The runner-up, winning a 2005 Good Beer Guide was Richard Palmer, also of St. Albans.

These were the only two correct entries marking the **32 pubs** required.

The pubs were: BELL, BLACK HORSE, BOOT, BULL, CHEQUERS, COACH AND HORSES, COCK, CRICKETERS, CROWN, FOX AND HOUNDS, GEORGE, GEORGE AND DRAGON, GREEN MAN, GREEN DRAGON, PLOUGH, PLUME OF FEATHERS, PRINCE OF WALES, QUEENS HEAD, RED LION, RISING SUN, ROSE AND CROWN, ROYAL OAK, SWAN, THREE HORSESHOES, THREE TUNS, VICTORIA, WAGGON AND HORSES, WHITE HART, WHITE HORSE, WHITE LION, WOODMAN

The setter apologises for the inclusion of GEORGE AND DRAGON (only 4 in Hertfordshire, not the stipulated 5), and for accidental inclusion of STAR – of which there are only 2 in Hertfordshire, and was therefore not a valid pub for inclusion.

Answers to Prize Crossword in Newsletter 206:

Across: 1) Waggon & Horses, 10) king, 11) Crook, 12) Apple Tree, 13) Overrates, 14) St Albans, 15) Ice, 16) Cortege, 17) Specimen, 19) Equator, 22) Goat, 24) Menu, 25) Debates, 28) Yodeller's 30) Orderly, 32) Eye, 33) Lemsford, 34) Sentences, 36) Eliminate, 37) Miser, 38) Flea, 39) Dog and Partridge, **Down:** 1) Wacko, 2) Goose Green, 3) Oak Tree, 4) Apartment, 5) Depositor 6) Open Sesame, 7) Surfaces, 8) Skew Bridge, 9) Intense, 16) Clumsy, 18) Notify, 20) Queens Head 21) Old Red Lion, 23) Ostracised, 25) Date Stamp, 26) Brown Bear, 27) Flooding, 29) One Bell, 31) Dreamer, 35) Serve. *All three winners duly collected their free entry and £10 beer prize.*

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DOWN YOUR WAY

Aldenham: The Roundbush (GBG listed) is doing a regular guest ale alongside the Greene King IPA, Abbot and Marstons Pedigree.

Bricket Wood: Steve left **The Gate** about 4 weeks ago and the pub is now closed, although all the lights were on (including those on the pub sign) when it was passed by on Tuesday evening, 9th November. Meanwhile, just down the road opposite the station, we welcome Barry & Christine Defries at the **Fox and Hounds** (Camelot). Barry tells us that, when they arrived four months ago, there was no real ale in the pub but he is trying to promote it from the Punch list. He currently sells Fuller's London Pride and Greene King's Ruddles County.

Enfield & Barnet news:

Barnet: The Crown & Anchor is up for let but has re-opened.

North Finchley N12 The Torrington is closed.

Whetstone N20 The Cavalier has reopened, it is now part of the John Barras chain.

N12 Stopz at the **Cherry Tree** is closed.

N2 The Five Bells is closed.

NW4 The White Bear now sells real ale, selling London Pride.

N14 The Wagon & Horses is now renamed the **Wagon**.

EN5 Xcaliber is now renamed **After Office Hours**.

Harpenden: The Silver Cup reopened 24th November after closure for major refurbishments.

Hertford: A belated welcome to Linda and Tony who took over the **Black Horse**, West Street, (Greene King) on 8th September. They previously ran the Good Beer Guide listed **Fulflood Arms** in Winchester. The beers available are Greene King IPA, Abbot and a rotating guest. An interesting pub well worth a visit. As part of the McMullen move from landlords to tenants, there has been a change of landlord at the **Greyhound**, Bengoe.

Radlett: A recent visit to **Brookes Bar** in Watling Street has found it to have been tastefully extended, but it does not serve any real ale.

Redbourn: The **Cricketers** is under new

management following the departure of landlord of 22 years Mick Sweet. Experts from the ITV programme *Everything Must Go* were called in to clear many of the items accumulated in Mick's 22 years of residence. Numerous collectables and antiques were auctioned off and plenty of items were donated to charity. The programme is due to be aired in January. The new landlord, Ross Turner, is the son of Jenny Turner, owner of the **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans. He has replaced the beer range, now stocking Everards beers plus a guest.

The Hollybush is currently undergoing a refurbishment, and is reported to be selling beer direct from the cask whilst cellar work is undertaken.

Ridge: Paul who has been running the **Old Guinea** since 2002 left the pub 24th October. We wish him well with his new employment. The pub may shut for a short spell before the new lessee can take over.

Shenley: The lease on the **Black Lion** is still up for sale.

St Albans: the **Blacksmith's Arms** has undergone a brief refurbishment as a **Hog's Head** and now offers only Fuller's London Pride and Deuchar's IPA, as do the others in the group. The opening date for the **Lloyds No. 1** in the old Waterend Barn is now the last weekend in January 2005. **The Harrow** is reportedly selling Deuchars IPA. Not the pub but the car park of the **Jolly Sailor** has been under threat of redevelopment, with plans for two houses being submitted. The ground opposite the pub is on a busy junction and the council have agreed with local residents the pub's customers and CAMRA members that the development would be unsuitable, and rejected the application. The **Spotted Bull** now does evening meals. The **Peacock** has discontinued its house beer Peacock Bitter from Tring brewery and replaced it with Greene King IPA. Shortly after going to press on the last edition we received some complaints about speakers and intrusive background muzac in the **Farriers Arms**. We are pleased that common sense prevailed and a compromise between the customers and licensees has been reached.

O'Neills is now serving a real ale, London Pride. **White Lion:** A Welcome back to David Worcester formerly of the **Lower Red Lion**, who takes over

DOWN YOUR WAY

the White Lion from the beginning of December.

Ware: The High Oak has new landlords who are keen to promote real ale in the pub. The three regular beers are Greene King IPA, Courage Directors and Wychwood Hobgoblin. A successful mini-fest with six extra beers was run to coincide with Guy Fawkes night.

STOP PRESS – The **Chequers** in Redbourn was virtually burnt down on Tuesday 30 November. At the fire's height up to 18 fire engines were required. Seven people in the building at the time were safely evacuated. More in next issue.

BRANCH DIARY

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Wednesday 8 December: King's Langley Social: **Old Palace**, 8.30pm; **Saracen's Head**, 9.15pm

2005

Wednesday 5 January: Bushey Heath Social. **Devonshire Arms**, 8.30pm; **Black Boy**, 9.30pm.

Friday 14 January: Pre-Xmas London Pub Crawl (contact branch for details).

Tuesday 18 January: Watford Social. **Tudor Arms**, 8.30pm; **Nascot Arms**, 10pm.

Wednesday, 26th January: Social at **Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty**, Herongate, 8.30pm

Sunday 6 February: Southern Cross Quiz Night. Meet at the **Southern Cross**, Langley Road, Watford at 8.30pm.

Tuesday 15 February: Social at the **Pump House**, Lower Board Road, Watford, 8.30pm (open mic night).

Branch Contact: Andrew Vaughan.
Telephone: 01923 230104

Email: branch@watfordcamra.org.uk

Web site: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Unless otherwise stated, all CAMRA members are welcome to every Branch event listed.

Tuesday 14 December: Branch Meeting – **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans 8pm

BRANCH DIARY

Thursday 16 December: New Members Social Night - **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans 8pm..

Tuesday 18 January: Good Beer Guide (GBG) 2006 Survey Crawl – St. Albans. Meet at **The Mermaid**, 7pm where the crawl starts.

Tuesday 1 February: South Herts Annual General Meeting and Branch Meeting – **CAMRA HQ** 8pm.

The following 4 GBG 2006 Survey Trips all have been arranged with transport collection from outside St. Albans Thameslink station at 7pm:

Tuesday 25 January: Hertford and Ware.

Tuesday 8 February: Harpenden/Redbourn area.

Tuesday 15 February: Park Street /Radlett Area

Tuesday 22 February: Potters Bar, Northaw and Wildhill

Tuesday 1 March: Good Beer Guide 2006 selection meeting, **CAMRA HQ**, 8pm.

To reserve a minibus seat please contact Chris Bozier on: 01582 515692 (Home) or 07849 644544 (Mobile). **Please book early to guarantee a place. Any cancellations also need to be notified.**

Branch Contact: John Bishop. Telephone: 01582-768478

Email: realales@yahoo.com

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The cosy restaurant has an a la carte menu with full table service where you can enjoy freshly prepared food produced by our professional kitchen staff. The wine selection is second to none with quality wines from all over the world, many being served either by the glass or bottle. The Restaurant menu is served 12.00am to 2.30pm and 6.00pm to 9.30pm.

**Why not pay us a visit
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